

REMARKS

Claims 1-21, 23-34, 36-37, 42-53, 79-91 are allowed and have received a Corrected Notice of Allowability, dated November 28, 2012, and a Supplemental Communication, dated December 13, 2012.

I. Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

The Corrected Notice of Allowability, dated November 28, 2012, and the Supplemental Communication, dated December 13, 2012, contain reasons for allowance that unnecessarily characterize the claims beyond the actual recitations contained in the allowed claims by making comparisons of claim language across different claims. While assignee's representative agrees with the assertions in the statements regarding deficiencies of the cited art in the reasons of allowance, it should be noted that the claims each recite varying language and, thus, should not be interpreted based upon the characterization employed in the statement of reasons of allowance. Rather, each claim should be understood to stand on its own individually while also being interpreted as a whole.

It should also be noted that the Corrected Notice of Allowability issued on November 28, 2012, contains an error in the *Election/Restrictions* section with regard to identification of previously withdrawn claims that remain withdrawn. Specifically, the *Election/Restrictions* section states the following:

“Claims 1-21, 23-34, 36-37, 42-53, and 79-91 are allowable. The restriction requirement as set forth in the Office action mailed on 4/11/2011, has been reconsidered in view of the allowability of claims to the elected invention pursuant to § MPEP 821.04(a). The restriction requirement is hereby withdrawn as to any claim that requires all the limitations of an allowable claim. **Claims 10-16, 25-29, 42, 44-50** are directed to non-elected species no longer withdrawn from consideration because the claim(s) requires all the limitations of an allowable claim. *However, claims 10-16, 25-29, 42, 44-50, directed to non-elected species withdrawn from consideration because they do not require all the limitations of an allowable claim.*” (page 5 of the Corrected Notice of Allowability) (emphasis added)

Note that the claims indicated above as being directed to non-elected species that are *withdrawn* from consideration (claims 10-16, 25-29, 42, and 44-50) are the same as those indicated as being directed to non-elected species that are *no longer withdrawn* from consideration. (This error was also present in the Notice of Allowance issued on August 30, 2012).

However, this error has been corrected in the Supplemental Communication issued on December 13, 2012, which correctly identifies the withdrawn claims as **claims 55-78**.

CONCLUSION

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [VIMGP111US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact assignee's undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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